

TOWN OF CLARENCE

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Stormwater Management Program Coordinator –

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What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow that doesn't soak into the ground and eventually runs off into waterways. It flows from rooftops, over paved areas and bare soil, and through sloped lawns while picking up a variety of materials on its way. As it flows, stormwater runoff collects and transports soil, animal waste, salt, pesticides, fertilizers, oil & grease, debris and other potential pollutants.

What is the Problem?

Rain and snowmelt wash pollutants (pesticides, motor oil, bacteria, nitrogen, lead, chemicals, sediments and litter) from streets, construction sites, and land into storm sewers and ditches. Eventually, the storm sewers and ditches empty the polluted stormwater directly into streams and rivers with no treatment. This is known as stormwater pollution.

Polluted stormwater degrades our lakes, rivers, wetlands and other waterways. Nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen can promote the overgrowth of algae and deplete oxygen threatening water quality and can kill fish and other aquatic life. Bacteria from animal wastes and improper sewerage systems can make lakes and waterways unsafe for wading, swimming and fish consumption. Eroded soil clouds the waterway and interferes with the habitat of fish and plant life.

According to an inventory conducted by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), half of the impaired waterways are affected by urban/suburban and construction sources of stormwater runoff.

Things You Can Do To Prevent Stormwater Pollution

General Household

Some household products, such as cleaners, insect spray and weed killers, can cause pollution if allowed to drain into a storm sewer. Buy household products labeled "nontoxic" whenever possible.

Paint & Solvents

Clean water-based paints from rollers, pans and brushes in sinks that go into the sanitary sewer system. Use paint thinners to remove oil-based paint from brushes and rollers but do not rinse down sinks or drains.

Automotive

Keep your autos in good repair and watch for possible leaks. Take leftover or used fluids to a household hazardous waste collection. Clean up leaks and spills with an absorbent material such as kitty litter. Wash your car on the lawn or gravel, which filter the dirt and soap out of the water. Use soaps without phosphates, which remove oxygen from the water.

Swimming Pool and Spa

Water, containing chlorine is harmful to aquatic life. Whenever possible, drain water into the sanitary sewer system. There are established guidelines on the amount of residual chlorine, acceptable pH range, coloration, filter media and acid cleaning wastes when draining into the storm sewer system.

Lawn and Garden

Follow directions carefully when using pesticides and fertilizers; don't over water or use before a rain. Pesticides and fertilizers may adversely impact our waterways. Consider using organic alternatives. Choose lower maintenance plants that require less watering and less chemicals.

Pet Care

Pick-up pet waste as soon as possible and put it in the trash. Pet waste has harmful bacteria that can get into our waterways.

Septic System

Keep your septic system maintained to prevent leaks.

Storm Drains

Don't dump anything into storm drains. Most lead directly into area waterways.

[WNY Stormwater Coalition Information Poster](#)

Contact Erie County's Household Hazardous Waste program (858-6800) for disposal recommendations on the products listed above.

More detailed stormwater information is available from the Western New York Stormwater Coalition at <http://www.erie.gov/stormwater>

Any Clarence stormwater questions, comments or concerns should be directed to Tim Lavocat at (716)741-8952 or tlavocat@clarence.ny.us

Illicit Discharges

An illicit Discharge is anything being dumped into a storm sewer other than rainwater, including but not limited to the products listed above. Report an illicit discharge at (716)741-8952 or by e-mail to tlavocat@clarence.ny.us

The Town's annual required progress report was made available for public comment on May 16th, 2014. A copy can be reviewed above or at the Clarence Town Hall and at the Clarence Public Library. Please feel free to comment. Please submit comments to Timothy M. Lavocat, P.E., Town Engineer, Town of Clarence, 6221 Goodrich Road, Clarence, NY 14032 or e-mail to tlavocat@clarence.ny.us

Stormwater Management Plan

The **Town of Clarence's Stormwater Management Plan** can be reviewed at the Clarence Engineering Department.